

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification. See the specification at, for example, Figs. 2A and 2B, and paragraphs [0015], [0016] and [0045].

Claim 3 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification. See the specification at, for example, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0072].

Claim 6 is amended to obviate informality. New dependent claims 9 and 10 are added to recite additional features. See the specification at, for example, paragraph [0053].

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action acknowledges consideration of all Information Disclosure Statements filed to date. However, the Office Action fails to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 filed with the March 22, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement. A review of the Patent Office's website (PAIR) indicates that the Office Action did not enclose the March 22, 2007 Form PTO-1449 when the Office Action was mailed out. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed copy of the March 22, 2007 Form PTO-1449.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,667,127 to Beattie et al.; and rejects claims 4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Beattie. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Beattie discloses fuel cells having electrodes, catalyst layers, diffusion layers, substrates and collector plates. See col. 1, lines 49-67. Beattie discloses channels or passages across the surfaces of electrodes or substrates. See col. 2, lines 9-19. Particles and/or fillers are contained in catalyst layers and diffusion layers. See Fig. 1. The Office Action asserts that Beattie discloses all elements recited in claims 1 and 3.

Claims 1 and 3 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite "the at least one of the first electron collection layer and the second electron collection layer including a plurality of rows, with the conductive material particles in each row separated by gaps, a conductive material particle in one row being in contact with a conductive material particles in an adjacent row." Claim 3 is amended to recite "the predetermined intervals forming a desired pattern." Beattie does not disclose or suggest these additional features, as recited in claims 1 and 3, respectively.

In particular, Beattie does not disclose or suggest the "stacking" feature recited in claim 1 or the "at predetermined intervals" feature recited in claim 3. For example, Beattie only discloses two plates that serve as collectors. See col. 1, lines 65-67. Beattie does not disclose that these two plates have particles stacked on each other. Beattie also does not disclose that the two plates are formed with predetermined intervals.

For at least the above reasons, Beattie does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 3, and claims 2 and 4-8 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New dependent claims 9 and 10 are patentable for at least the patentability of claim 3, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/rle

Date: June 1, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--